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LETTER DATED 5 JULY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

You will find attached, in implementation of paragraph 10 of Security Council resolution 929 (1994) of 22 June 1994, the first report on the implementation of Operation "Turquoise". I should be grateful if you would have this letter as well as the annex to it circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Bernard MÉRIMÉE

Annex

Operation "Turquoise"

1. Troop contingent

The troop contingent for operation "Turquoise" has been placed under the command of General Lafourcade, who has at his disposal an inter-service theatre command post (PCIAT), which has been established in Goma and is linked to the Paris Inter-Service Operational Centre.

The troop contingent is made up of the following components:

(a) A north forces subgroup composed of three combat units in Kibuye;

(b) A south forces subgroup made of two combat units in Cyangugu;

(c) A specialized subgroup consisting of four units in Bukavu;

(d) A detachment of fighter aircraft in Kisangani;

(e) Three transit bases in Bangui, Libreville and Douala.

The troop contingent currently numbers 2,300 French soldiers and 32 Senegalese soldiers.

2. Composition of the Force (expected strength)

2.1 Inter-service means

(a) An inter-service command post (PCIAT - 305 troops);

(b) A rapid intervention military medical unit (EMMIR - 46 troops);

(c) A specialized detachment with five helicopters (220 troops);

(d) Three detachments of the Armed Forces Petrol Service (35 troops).

2.2 Means of the Air Force and Navy

A unit of four Mirage F1CR, four Mirage F1CT, one Atlantic, two C135 FR, two Casa 235, five tactical cargo aircraft (C130, C160), two SA330 (SAR) helicopters. Total strength is 340 troops.

2.3 Means of the Army

(a) Four motorized infantry companies (580 troops);

(b) A 12-vehicle light armoured car squadron (130 troops);

(c) A six-piece heavy mortar section (70 troops);

(d) An Engineers section (25 troops);

(e) A logistical support battalion that has been partially dispatched and is being deployed (expected strength - 450 troops);

(f) A detachment of Army light aircraft (ALAT) with three Puma helicopters (60 troops);

(g) A logistical support battalion that has been partially dispatched and is being deployed (expected strength - 450 troops);

(h) A detachment of Army light aircraft (ALAT) with three Puma helicopters (60 troops);

(i) Two tactical headquarters (62 troops);

(j) A command and service company (150 troops).

2.4 Means of the National Gendarmerie

A provost detachment (10 troops).

2.5 Foreign troop strength

A Senegalese infantry section (32 troops).

Other units provided by various African countries could be integrated into the Force. A Belgian advanced surgical unit is expected.

3. Sites and method of deployment

Initially installed in Goma and Bukavu on 22 June 1994, the Force subsequently reconnoitred several main routes:

(a) In the north, from Goma towards Kibuye and the Ndaba pass;

(b) In the south, from Bukavu in the area of the Nyugwe forest and as far as Gikongoro and Butare.

The operation consisted of:

(a) Preliminary actions (measures to alert and pre-position forces in central Africa) from 16 to 21 June 1994;

(b) Initial actions:

(i) Establishment of an advanced operational base in Goma and an air platform in Kisangani from 21 to 24 June 1994;

(ii) Reconnaissance of refugee camps in Cyangugu and western Rwanda from 22 to 25 June 1994;

(iii) Progressive deployment of the Force on the aforementioned advancement routes from 24 June to 4 July 1994.

4. Evaluation of the situation

The humanitarian mission entrusted to France is proving to be delicate, particularly in the centre and the south of the area reconnoitred by the "Turquoise" Force.

Until 2 July 1994, our troops had been able to operate without incident within the government zone from the Zairian towns of Goma and Bukavu.

Subsequently, the advance by the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) led to a further flow of refugees. This made us define a safe humanitarian zone for the refugees within the Cyangugu-Kibuye-Gikongoro triangle.

The humanitarian problem in this zone is today assuming considerable dimensions, which require the involvement of the entire international community. Hundreds of thousands of displaced Tutsi and Hutu persons require emergency assistance. The protection provided by France should make it possible to provide such assistance as speedily as possible.

5. Humanitarian actions undertaken

5.1 Protection and organization of refugee camps

The "Turquoise" Force is carrying out action to provide protection around two camps:

5.1.1 Nyarushishi, an already existing camp containing 8,000 persons (Tutsi). Protection is being provided by the Rwandese Armed Forces (RAF) and soldiers from the "Turquoise" Force (one section).

5.1.2 Biserero, a camp set up and protected by French forces (1,000 Tutsi as of 1 July).

5.2 Humanitarian activities

5.2.1 General situation

Since the arrival of the "Turquoise" Force in Rwanda, the number of refugees spread out among more than 50 camps in the government zone is estimated at 850,000.

In the south of the country, many refugees are moving towards Gikongoro (westward movement) and towards Burundi (southward movement).

During his visit to the area, Mr. Arturo Hein, Director of the United Nations Emergency Office for Rwanda (stationed in Nairobi), gave a very favourable assessment of the mission and operating methods of Operation "Turquoise".

5.2.2 Actions carried out

Establishment of a rapid-intervention military medical unit (EMMIR) in Cyangugu (as of 5 July).

Delivery of 37 tons of humanitarian aid from the French Government and its distribution in the Kibuye and Gikongoro regions. Four hundred tons are expected in the next few days.

Evacuation of 1,325 persons.

The Western European Union has been requested to provide the following means:

(a) A reserve of 35 tons of medicine (renewable every three weeks);

(b) 400 tons of non-perishable foodstuffs;

(c) Clothing and blankets for 200,000 persons.

Flagrant human rights violations have been directly observed by French soldiers and have been reported by the civilian population. Thus, the "Turquoise" forces discovered mass graves in the Cyangugu and Kibuye regions. Furthermore, bodies likely to be of persons of Tutsi origin were found near Biserero.

All relevant information collected will subsequently be transmitted to the experts on the Commission of Inquiry established under Security Council resolution 935 (1994) of 1 July 1994 and to the Special Rapporteur.

6. Assessment of the implementation of the operation and possible difficulties to be encountered

Operation "Turquoise" is being implemented in accordance with Security Council resolution 929 (1994).

The French forces have demonstrated impartiality in the field by rescuing many Hutu and Tutsi Rwandese from certain death. This impartiality is beginning to be recognized by the RPF, which permitted the evacuation of 1,000 persons from Butare, even though a minor incident took place.

Certain difficulties remain. For the time being, non-governmental organizations and international institutions are doing very little to take over work carried out by the "Turquoise" forces, particularly in the south. In this field, as in the area of participating in the logistical support for our intervention, few promises have been carried out. While our contingent serves

to deter the militias and armed forces involved in the conflict, it is still insufficient in view of the number of displaced persons to be assisted.

Furthermore, the difficulties involved in controlling the extremely tense military situation are not insignificant. Thus, possible hostility on the part of the RAF and the Hutu militias against our contingent may increase the dangers which our forces are already facing from RPF. Participation by third countries in the operation would constitute appreciable assistance to our efforts.

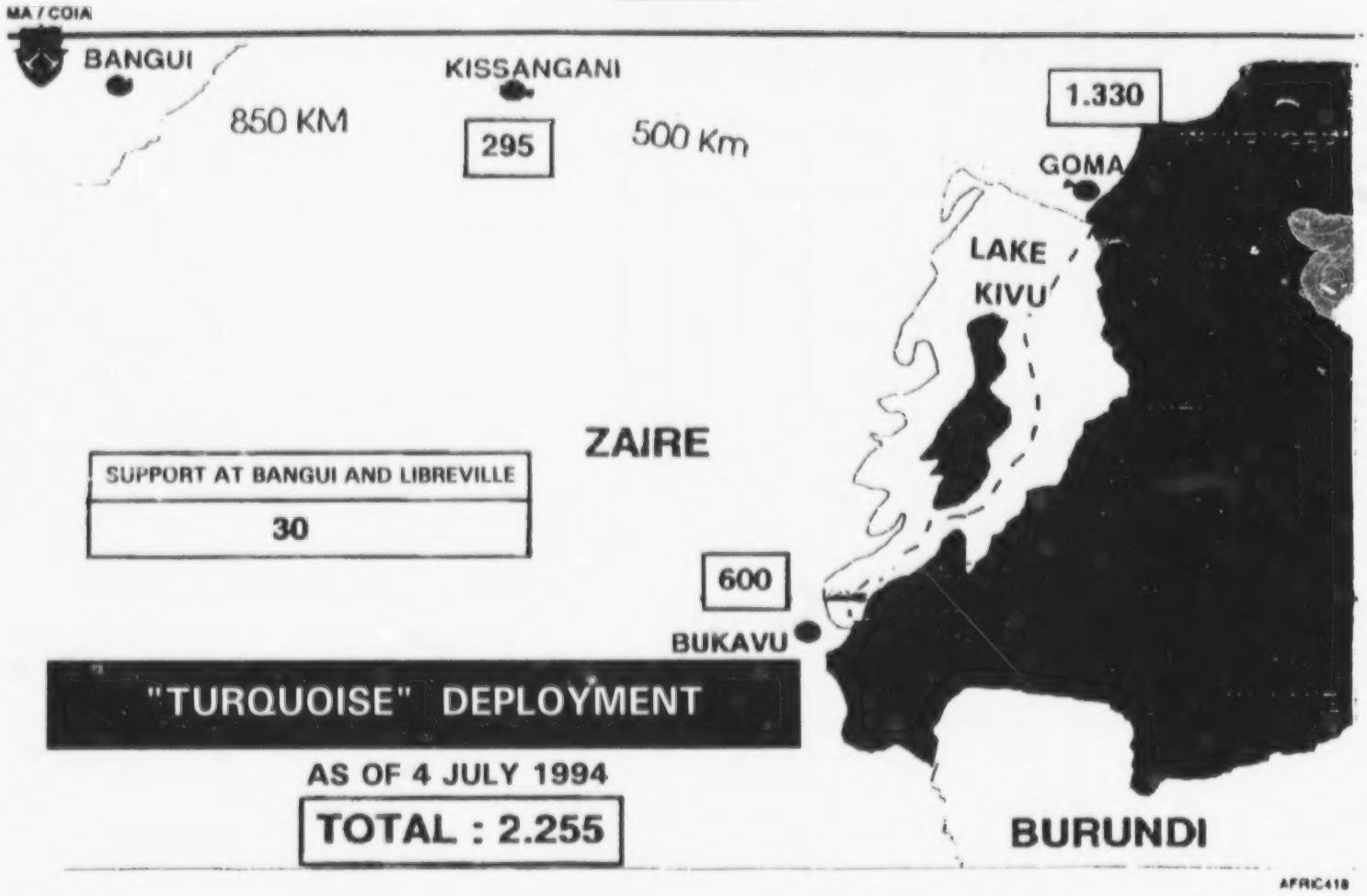
Lastly, the military effort borne almost entirely by France could not be extended without the serious prospect of relief by UNAMIR II. Most of the contribution offers are still uncertain or accompanied by conditions or time-limits that are incompatible with the taking over of our mission in the next two months. France therefore calls upon all Member States to ensure that the deployment of the reinforced UNAMIR is speedily carried out.

Appendix I

Evacuations carried out (as of 4 July 1994)

Date	Place of removal	To	Persons concerned
28 June	Kibuye	Goma	35 nuns 8 orphans
29 June	Kibuye	Goma	1 nun
30 June	Gishyita	Goma	94 Tutsi
2 July	Butare	Goma	16 nuns
2 July	Kibuye and Butare	Goma and Bukavu	130 civilians
3 July 3 July 3 July	Butare Butare Butare	Burundi	262 persons 700 TDH orphans 30 nuns
4 July	Gikongoro	Goma	14 persons 3 nuns
	North Kigeme	Gikongoro	1 nun 31 Tutsi
Total			1 325

Appendix II


MA / COIA
BANGUI
KISSANGANI
850 KM
295
500 Km
1.330
GOMA
LAKE
KIVU
ZAIRE
SUPPORT AT BANGUI AND LIBREVILLE
30
600
BUKAVU
"TURQUOISE" DEPLOYMENT
AS OF 4 JULY 1994
TOTAL : 2.255
BURUNDI
AFRIC418